



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Germond et al.  
Appl. No.: 10/019,817  
Conf. No.: 9937  
Filed: May 13, 2002  
Title: THE LACTOSE OPERON OF LACTOBACILLUS DELBRUEKII AND ITS  
USE FOR CONTROLLING GENE TRANSCRIPTION AND/OR EXPRESSION  
IN BACTERIAL CELLS  
Art Unit: 1652  
Examiner: K. Kerr  
Docket No.: 112843-039

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2003 and subsequently dated Advisory Action dated January 14, 2004, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.